

2012 -- S 2860

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LC02276
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Introduced By: Senators Cote, and Picard

Date Introduced: April 10, 2012

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7-22 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled "Foundation
2 Level School Support" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7-22. Determination of average daily membership.** -- Each community shall be
4 paid pursuant to the provisions of section 16-7-17 an amount based upon the following
5 provisions:

6 (1) On or before September 1 of each year the average daily membership of each city and
7 town for the reference year shall be determined by the commissioner of elementary and secondary
8 education from data supplied by the school committee in each community in the following
9 manner: The aggregate number of days of membership of all pupils enrolled full time in grade
10 twelve (12) and below, except that pupils below grade one who are not full time shall be counted
11 on a full time equivalent basis: (i) increased by the aggregate number of days of membership of
12 pupils residing in the particular city or town whose tuition in schools approved by the department
13 of elementary and secondary education in other cities and towns is paid by the particular city or
14 town; and (ii) decreased by the aggregate number of days of membership of nonresident pupils
15 enrolled in the public schools of the particular city or town and further decreased by the aggregate
16 number of days of membership equal to the number of group home beds calculated for the
17 purposes of reimbursement pursuant to section 14-64-1.1; and (iii) decreased further, in the case
18 of a city or town which is a member of a regional school district during the first year of operation
19 of the regional school district, by the aggregate number of days of membership of pupils residing

1 in the city or town who would have attended the public schools in the regional school district if
2 the regional school district had been operating during the previous year, divided by the number of
3 days during which the schools were officially in session during the reference year. The resulting
4 figures shall be the average daily membership for the city or town for the reference year. For
5 purposes of calculating the permanent foundation education aid as described in section 16-7.2-
6 3(1) and (2), the average daily membership for school districts shall exclude charter school and
7 state school students.

8 (i) Provided, that notwithstanding the provisions of this section and of the definition of
9 “reference year” as set forth in section 16-7-16, in the event the city council of the city of
10 Woonsocket authorizes the institution of a full-day kindergarten program and notifies the general
11 assembly of such decision prior to the passage of the annual state budget legislation for the fiscal
12 year commencing July 1, 2012, the kindergarten students in the city of Woonsocket shall be
13 considered full-time equivalent students, and the reference year used to determine the average
14 daily membership for the city of Woonsocket shall be moved forward one year and projected into
15 the fiscal year for which the appropriation is to begin. It is the intent of this section to provide
16 immediate funding for full-day kindergarten in the city of Woonsocket commencing with the
17 fiscal year in which the full-day kindergarten commences. In the event the city of Woonsocket so
18 decides to institute full-day kindergarten, the number of kindergarten students used in calculating
19 the total average daily membership for the city of Woonsocket shall be determined by the number
20 of students registered for kindergarten with the Woonsocket school department on or before June
21 1, 2012. The provisions of this paragraph shall not alter the method of determining the average
22 daily membership for all other students in the city of Woonsocket.

23 (2) The average daily membership of pupils attending public schools shall apply for the
24 purposes of determining the percentage of the state's share under the provisions of sections 16-7-
25 16(3), 16-7-16(10), 16-7-18, 16-7-19, 16-7-20, 16-7-21 and 16-7.2-4.

26 (3) In the case of regional school districts, the aggregate number of days of membership
27 by which each city or town is decreased in subdivision (1)(iii) of this section divided by the
28 number of days during which the schools attended by the pupils were officially in session shall
29 determine the average daily membership for the regional school district during the first year of
30 operation. After the first year of operation, the average daily membership of each regional school
31 district, except the Chariho regional high school district, shall be determined by the commissioner
32 of elementary and secondary education from data supplied by the school committee of each
33 regional school district for the reference year in the manner provided in subdivision (1) of this
34 section.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

1 This act would provide for accelerated education aid funding to the city of Woonsocket in
2 the event the Woonsocket city council makes a determination to institute full-day kindergarten
3 and notifies the general assembly of that determination prior to passage of the budget for the
4 fiscal year commencing July 1, 2012.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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